

**Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council**



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1948

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Council



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Public Health Department

W. H. P. MINTO, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. GOOD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.
Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Mr. H. F. B. NICKOLDS.

Mr. M. G. WYPER.

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Health Department,
The Council House,
Bishop's Stortford,
1949.

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report on the Health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

These rates have been calculated on the Registrar General's estimate of the resident population in 1948.

In October, 1948, East Hertfordshire Combined Districts appointed a successor to Dr. Alan D. Whitelaw, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., as whole-time Medical Officer of Health. Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council elected to withdraw from the Combined Districts and appointed as Medical Officer of Health the Assistant County Medical Officer employed in their district. Such a combined appointment, maintaining, as it does, liaison between the District Council and the Local Health Authority, should provide the closest integration of the Public Health Service in the area.

As from 1st November, 1948, Mr. A. L. Good was appointed Sanitary Inspector to succeed Mr. N. F. Cripps, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.Hsg., who resigned on taking up an appointment as Housing Estate Manager to the Smallburgh Rural District Council. Credit for most of the work carried out during the year is due therefore to Dr. C. M. Billington, M.D., Ch.B., L.R.C.P., Acting Medical Officer of Health and Mr. Cripps.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

W. H. P. MINTO,
Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. GOOD,
Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres) ...	...	...	3,826
Population ...	...	...	12,570
Rateable Value at 31/12/48	...	£102,819	
Sum represented by Penny Rate		£408	
Number of inhabited houses	...	3,659	
Density of persons per acre	...	3.3	
„ „ houses „ „	...	0.98	
Average number of occupants per house	...	...	3.4

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales ...	17.9	10.8	34
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ...	20	11.6	39
148 Smaller Towns (1931 census 25,000 to 50,000) ...	19.2	10.7	32
London ...	20.1	11.6	31
Bishop's Stortford ...	14.9	11.6	21

Births

Number of Legitimate Births	...	...	175
„ „ Illegitimate „	...	...	13
Percentage of Illegitimate Births	...	...	6.9
Total Number of Births	...	Males 97	
		Females 91	188
Total Number of Deaths	...	...	147

(3) Mortality Table

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
All Causes... ..	67	80	147
Zymotic Disease	—	—	—
Influenza	1	—	1
Tuberculosis (all forms)	3	5	8
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Cancer (all causes)	10	14	24
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	14	20
Heart Disease	31	25	56
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	2	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	2	2
Nephritis	—	2	2
Puerperal and Post Abortion Sepsis... ..	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth In- juries, Infant Diseases	—	1	1
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	—	—
Other Violent Causes	2	2	4
All Other Causes	11	11	22
Still Births	2	3	5
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	1	3	4

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 65	Over 65	Rem. to Hosp.	Deaths
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	10	—	1	1	7	—	1	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	19	1	2	6	7	1	1	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	58	3	10	16	29	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	—	—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	7	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	4	2	3	3	6	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1	1	14	8	16	12	4	1	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis ...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non-P	Pul.	Non-P
Cases on Register at 31.12.47 ...	26	—	16	9
Number of cases notified during year	4	—	5	3
Number of cases restored during year	—	—	1	—
Inward transfer	1	—	1	—
Cases removed	6	—	3	2
Cases on Register at 31.12.48 ...	25	—	20	10

(3) Diphtheria Prophylaxis

With the advent of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Diphtheria Prophylaxis became the responsibility of the County Council as the local health authority.

During the period 1st January, 1948—5th July, 1948 (the appointed day), 98 children completed a course of primary immunisation against Diphtheria and 109 received a “boosting” injection.

These figures compare favourably with those relating to the same period in 1947, 1946 and 1945. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that Diphtheria Immunisation in relation to Child Population in the area remains at, at least, its previous level (approximately 80–90% of the children under 15 years of age being protected.)

(4) Water Supply

The supply from the Pumping Station augmented by that from the Pumping Plant at the Council Depot was satisfactory in quantity and quality. The water is chlorinated and the quarterly chemical and bacteriological tests carried out, revealed that the water is wholesome and entirely satisfactory.

There are 54 houses not on the main supply, 28 of which are in Thorley. The laying of the new water main to supply the Thorley area was nearing completion at the end of the year and it is anticipated that the 28 houses mentioned will have a piped supply from this main early in 1949.

There are still several blocks of cottages supplied with stand-pipes situated in private yards.

(5) Swimming Pool

Routine samples of water taken from the swimming pool during the summer were all reported upon as satisfactory.

(6) Drainage and Sewerage

The separate system of drainage is in operation and the sewage is treated by means of settling tanks, broad irrigation and filtration.

(7) Public Cleansing

Refuse is disposed of by Tipping on land adjoining the Castle grounds.

SECTION C

Sanitary Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

Total number of visits	...	...	...	2100
Dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects	...	...	...	198
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	...	...	...	365
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	...	...	...	26
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	...	...	...	13
Special and miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	176
Interviews with owners, etc., at properties	...	...	...	42
Visits <i>re</i> Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	...	...	...	29
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	58
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	33
Visits to Bakehouses	...	...	...	18
Visits to Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	20
Visits to Fish Shops	...	...	...	6
Visits to Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	43
Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	42
Visits to other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	...	22
Visits to Markets	...	...	...	56
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	43
Visits to Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...	...	...	4
Visits to Schools	...	...	...	17
Visits <i>re</i> Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	5
Visits <i>re</i> Building Byelaws	...	...	...	379
Visits to Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	1
Visits to Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	1
Visits to Council Houses	...	...	...	268
Visits to Property requisitioned for housing purposes	...	...	...	84
Visits <i>re</i> Applications for Housing Accommodation	...	...	...	150
Visits to Rat infested premises	...	...	...	1

(2) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	...	...	...	197
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	196
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities*	...	...	...	64
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	31

* Including 32 complaints of infestation by either rats or mice.

(3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	...	...	...	25
Drains tested with other means	...	...	...	6

(4) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices

(a) Preliminary Notices

	No. Served	No. Com- plied with
(a) dwelling houses for housing defects	111	127
(b) premises for other than housing defects	9	13
(c) special premises (shops, factories, etc.)	25	24

(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936

	No. Served	No. Com- plied with
Section 75, to provide a suitable covered dustbin	10	9

N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.

(5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

	At Dwelling Houses	At Special Premises (excl'dg. Factories)	At various premises for other than hous- ing defects
Drainage systems repaired, un- stopped, etc.	18	2	—
Water closets repaired, screened, etc.	14	2	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided	4	2	—
Dampness remedied (roofs, gutters, etc. repaired)	45	1	—
Floors repaired	11	1	—
Sink and waste pipes renewed or repaired	5	—	—
Windows and doors repaired ...	12	—	—
Ranges, grates, etc., repaired or renewed	7	—	—
Rooms cleansed	20	8	—
Accumulations removed	—	—	5
Dustbins provided	34	—	—
Means of escape in case of fire provided	—	2	—
Washing facilities provided (hot water, etc.)	—	2	—
Miscellaneous	41	—	4

(6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

		Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide	Houses disinfested by other means	4-oz. Tins of IZAL issued	1-pint Bottles of D.D.T. Insecticide issued
Following Infectious Disease	...	13	—	—	—	6	—
Following other Diseases	...	5	3	—	—	4	—
Following Vermin Infestation at							
(a) Council Houses	...	—	—	—	—	—	6
(b) Other Houses	...	—	—	—	1	—	8
TOTAL	... ... ... ...	18	3	—	1	10	14

(7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) *Milk Supplies*

There are three producers of milk in the Urban District, and five retailers of milk. Four retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk and four to sell "Pasteurised" milk.

Two of the producers are licensed by the Hertfordshire County Council to produce "Tuberculin Tested" milk and "Accredited" milk respectively.

Frequent visits were made to the cowsheds and dairies throughout the year and these were found on all occasions to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

During the year 105 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Hertford Public Health Laboratory and it is pleasing to be able to record that of this number only 8 were reported upon unfavourably.

A word of praise is once again due to the producers and distributors for their efforts to provide a clean and safe milk supply.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Accredited	6	4	2
Pasteurised	48	44	4
Tuberculin Tested	6	5	1
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	43	42	1
Heat Treated	2	2	0

85 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 20 by officers of other authorities.

(b) Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream

At the end of the year there were, on the Register, two premises at which ice cream was being manufactured and twenty one at which it was being stored and sold.

Thirty four samples of ice cream were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and the provisional grading of these samples is shown in the table below.

Samples in Grades 1 and 2 are regarded as satisfactory and those in Grades 3 and 4 as unsatisfactory. Where samples are reported in Grades 3 and 4 investigation is carried out, advice is given and further samples are obtained with a view to securing improvement in the grade.

	PROVISIONAL GRADING			
	1	2	3	4
Total number of samples	12	8	8	6
Number pre-packed	11	5	3	4
Number not pre-packed	1	3	5	2

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

AR/ALG

W. H. P. MINTO,

M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER

TEL. 1072.

C.R.

HEALTH

5 OCT 49

17

Council Offices,

Bishop's Stortford.

4th October 1949.

The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London. S.W.1.

Dear Sir,

Annual Report for 1948.

I enclose herewith seven copies
of the above Report as requested in
Circular 3/49.

Yours faithfully,

W.H.P. Minto

Medical Officer of Health.

(c) *Meat and other Food Inspection*

The number of premises subject to inspection under the provision of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of 1948 was as follows :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	9
Butcher's Shops	...	...	...	13
Fish Shops	...	...	...	7
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	59
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	28
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	14

Frequent routine visits of inspection were carried out, statistical details of which are given earlier in the report. Although, in the main, the standard of cleanliness of food premises was found to be generally satisfactory, the methods employed in the handling and preparation of food left something to be desired.

An effort will be made in 1949 in an endeavour to secure further structural improvements in food preparing premises and also to bring about a more intelligent application of the elementary rules of food hygiene.

The quantity of food found unfit for human consumption is tabulated below and it is about the average for recent years.

The practice of examining all animals slaughtered in the district, whether for home consumption or by reason of injury or illness, was continued throughout the year and a slight decrease in the number dealt with has been recorded.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number Inspected	1	10	66	67
All Diseases except Tuberculosis :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	—	10	—	—
Tuberculosis only :				
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	1	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	—	1.5	—

Details of Foodstuffs Found unfit for Human Consumption

Description	No. of Containers	Weight
Meat and Meat Products	141	270 lbs.
Fish	229	567 "
Vegetables	370	560 "
Fruit	1294	457 "
Preserves	177	299 "
Milk	196	184 "

Other Foodstuffs

Soup	79 lbs.	Bacon	15 lbs.
Barley Flakes	1107 "	Cheese... ..	19 pkts.
Flour	1837 "	Jellies	82 "
Oats	149 "	Weetabix	24 "
Custard Powder	116 "	Shredded Wheat	12 "
Rusks	9 "	Sweet Corn	10 lbs.
Sausages	74 "	Pork	27 "
Cake Mixture	101 "	Beef	779 "
Slab Cake	8 "	Fruit Juices	23 "
Pudding Mixtures	42 "	Miscellaneous... ..	12 "

(9) Rodent Control

Thirty two complaints of infestation by either rats or mice were received during the year and passed on to the County Pest Officer for attention.

The Hertfordshire County Council are at present the Authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, although towards the end of the year it became clear that they were now willing to delegate their powers to the Urban District Council.

As the Council have been pressing for delegation for some time, the proposal must be received with satisfaction.

(10) Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Forty three visits were made to the factories on the Register and it was found necessary in ten instances to serve Informal Notices where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were eighteen factory outworkers resident in the district.

Fuller details of visits carried out and defects found and remedied are given in the tables below.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	22	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	38	9	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	105	43	10	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	2	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	—	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	6	3	—	5	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1	—	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	9	7	—	6	—

(11) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year

(a) By the Local Authority	120
(b) By private enterprise	23

It was found to be impossible during the year to carry out systematic inspection of dwelling houses. Specific complaints were attended to and in 111 instances it was found necessary to serve preliminary notices. Building materials and labour were not in such short supply as in 1947, and consequently, property owners were able to attend to repairs more expeditiously, thus avoiding the necessity for any statutory action.

Turning to the question of applications for housing accommodation, it will be seen from the figures tabulated below, that, at 31st October, 1948, there were 473 applicants on the "live" waiting list. Of this number, 275 were without separate homes, and 198 were already house-holders, although the majority of the latter were living in sub-standard accommodation. Thirteen applicants only, did not either live or work in Bishop's Stortford.

	Position at 31.10.45	Position at 31.7.48	Position at 31.10.48
Number of Applicants who live and work in Bishop's Stortford ...	128	275	289
Number of Applicants who live in Bishop's Stortford but work elsewhere	70	80	83
Number of Applicants who work in Bishop's Stortford but live elsewhere	46	78	88
Number of Applicants who do not live or work in Bishop's Stortford ...	9	10	13
Number of Applications received since 1st January, 1945	309	1145	1219
Number of Applications withdrawn or removed from the Register for various reasons	46	404	419
Number of Families re-housed ...	6	298	327
Number of Families found Emergency Housing Accommodation ...	—	—	—
Number of Council tenants transferred to other Council property during the year ... ..	...	...	29

N.B. The above figures include 45 Applications for Bungalows and 21 Applicants stated to be employed at Stansted Airport.

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS FOR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AT 31st OCTOBER, 1948

1 Composition of Applicants' Families	2 No. of Families Overcrowded			3 No. of Families not Overcrowded			4 No. requiring Special Consideration			5 Totals of 2, 3 and 4		
	House- holders	Lodgers	Total	House- holders	Lodgers	Total	House- holders	Lodgers	Total	House- holders	Lodgers	Total
GROUP A												
(a) Married Couples ...	—	—	—	60	122	182	2	4	6	62	126	188
(b) Married with 1 child ...	—	1	1	42	90	132	2	4	6	44	95	139
(c) Married with 2 children ...	—	—	—	41	12	53	1	2	3	42	14	56
(d) Other family units ...	—	—	—	29	40	69	—	—	—	29	40	69
	—	1	1	172	264	436	5	10	15	177	275	452
GROUP B												
(e) Married with 3 children ...	—	—	—	10	—	10	—	—	—	10	—	10
(f) Married with 4 children ...	—	—	—	4	—	4	—	—	—	4	—	4
(g) Other family units ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
	—	—	—	15	—	15	—	—	—	15	—	15
GROUP C												
(h) Married with 5 children ...	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
(i) Married with 6 children ...	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2
(j) Other family units ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	5	—	5
GROUP D												
(k) Family units of 9 or more	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals at 31/10/48 ...	1	1	2	192	264	456	5	10	15	198	275	473
Totals at 31/7/48 ...	—	1	1	174	248	422	6	14	20	180	263	443

